

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SCCT-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /109 W

----- 061459

O P 050150Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7325

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERSUALEM PRIORITY

USLON PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1950

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PFOR,UNSC,XF,EG,IS

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON WEST BANK INCIDENTS

REF: USUN 1915

1. MORE IMPORTANT THAN DEBATE MAY 4 (IN WHICH EGYPT ALONE SPOKE) WAS A CONTROVERSY BETWEEN EGYPTI, JORDAN AND SYRIA OVER MEETING, WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF TEMPORARILY DEPRIVING ISRAEL OF HER RIGHT TO A PERMANENT SEAT AT THE TABLE. WHILE ISRAEL'S SEAT NOW SEEMS ASSURED, INTER-ARAB QUARREL CONTINUES.

2. BEFORE MEETING BEGAN, SC PRESIDENT DE GUIRINGAUD HAD ARRANGED TO HAVE EGYPT AND PLO OCCUPY THE TWO EXTRA SEATS AT ONE END OF HORSESHOE TABLE, WHILE OTHER TWO SEATS WERE TO BE OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL AND, SEPARATELY, BY OTHER NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO WISHED TO SPEAK. THIS ACCORDED WITH PAST PRACTICE, AND WAS AGREEABLE TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND PLO. HOWEVER, AFTER FORMAL MEETING STARTED, SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN AMBASSADORS TOLD SC PRESIDENT THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO EGYPT BEING SOLE ARAB GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN AT TABLE THROUGHOUT DEBATE. SUBJECT AT ISSUE, THEY SAID, AFFECTED THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS AS MUCH AS EGYPT; EITHER ALL THREE SHOULD HAVE PERMANENT SEAT, OR NONE SHOULD. SEEING IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO STRAIGHTEN MATTER OUT IN FEW MINUTES BEFORE PARTIES WERE CALLED TO TABLE, DEGUIRINGAUD CHOSE NOT TO INVITE ANY OF THE PARTIES TO TAKE A PERMANENT SEAT. HE UNDERLINED TEMPORARY NATURE OF EGYPT'S PARTICIPATION BY ASKING AMBASSADOR MEGUID TO LEAVE THE TABLE WHEN HE HAD FINISHED SPEAKING.

3. MEANWHILE, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG WAS FURIOUS AT NOT HAVING BEEN INVITED TO TAKE THE PERMANENT SEAT REGULARLY ACCORDED ISRAEL IN MIDDLE EAST DEBATES. HE PRIVATELY PROTESTED IN STRONGEST TERMS TO SC PRESIDENCY, NOTING THAT ISRAEL WAS BEING DENIED RIGHT TO REPLY TO A STRING OF EGYPTIAN ALLEGATIONS ON ISRAELI WEST BANK PRACTICES. TO US HERZOG SAID HE WOULD TAKE NO PART IN DEBATE UNLESS HE WERE GIVEN A PERMANENT SEAT AT TABLE. HE ASKED OUR HELP, AND WE HAVE IN FACT BEEN IN CONTINUOUS TOUCH WITH PRESIDENCY IN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ISRAEL IS ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE THROUGHOUT DEBATE.

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4. AT CONCLUSION OF DEBATE, USSR BROUGHT SEATING PROBLEM INTO OPEN BY ASKING PRESIDENT WHY PLO HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO SIT AT COUNCIL TABLE. (SEE UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY FOR EXCHANGE.) WHILE SOVIET INTENTION PLAINLY WAS TO MAKE POINTS WITH PLO, EFFECT WAS TO HIGHLIGHT CONTROVERSY BETWEEN EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN.

5. AS OF EVENING MAY 4, ARAB DELEGATIONS HAD NOT SORTED MATTER

OUT. EGYPT CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT SHE, AS THE PARTY TO REQUEST MEETING, WAS ENTITLED BY PRECEDENT TO A PERMANENT SEAT, WHILE SYRIA AND JORDAN EMPHATICALLY DISAGREED. DE GUIRINGAUD REPORTEDLY TOLD ARAB AMBASSADORS THAT UNLESS THEY COULD AGREE ON MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT, HE WOULD RULE IN FAVOR OF EGYPT ON BASIS OF LONG-STANDING PAST PRACTICE. PRESIDENCY ASSURES US THAT NO MATTER WHAT ARABS DECIDE, ISRAEL (AND PLO) WILL BE INVITED TO TAKE PERMANENT SEATS AT TABLE WHEN DEBATE RESUMES AFTERNOON MAY 5.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY 4 DEBATE BEING SENT BY UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY. INSCRIBED FOR MAY 5 ARE SYRIA, JORDAN, ISRAEL, AND PLO.

SCRANTON

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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